

Testimony of Lynn Linde, Ed. D., Senior Director of the Center for Counseling Practice, Research, and Policy at the American Counseling Association (ACA) and Past President of the ACA to the District of Columbia City Council Committee on Health
October 28, 2015

Good afternoon Chairwoman Alexander and members of the Committee on Health and Human Services. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today and express the support of the American Counseling Association for B21-168. The American Counseling Association represents over 56,000 licensed professional counselors (there are approximately 1,100 licensed professional counselors in the District), and it is the professional association representing professional counselors. As a professional association, and as counselors, we have an ethical obligation to engage in legislative advocacy, particularly on proposals that relate to the mental health of our residents.

When providers have a greater understanding of how to best serve LGBTQ populations and become aware of, what may be, unintentional attitudes or the use of a communication style that may hinder the